BENGALURU, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 18 | Humidity 63% Partly Cloudy Sensex 79,389 | Nifty 24,205 | Gold 79,205 | Silver 96,928 | Dollar 84.08 | Euro 91.47 | GBP 109.25

BAD INVESTMENT

1,000 cases in 9 months of fraudulent experts giving investment advice to swindle people

PAGE 3

STUCK IN LIMBO

Broken height gauge gate and a trapped truck bring lack of safety measures at city's underpasses into spotlight

PAGE 4

1,025 cases of kidnapping till October this year, of which 629 ended in fatalities; ransom demands and trafficking most worrying, particularly in cases involving kids

SPIRITED AWAY

More girls go missing than boys with around 250 cases a month on average

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru has been witnessing a surge in abductions. The statistics paint a chilling picture as by October 30, the city has already witnessed a staggering 1,025 kidnapping cases, with a shocking 629 resulting in fatalities.

Kidnapping cases have been on the rise year on year. In 2022, 932 cases were reported, with 852 ending in fatalities. The situation in 2023 mirrored that of 2022, with 852 fatalities out of the total of 1,152 reported cases.

In 2024, the data on missing children shows distinct monthly trends and gender disparities. Boys' cases peaked in June at 277, an outlier compared to other months, with the lowest count in March (55). Conversely, girls consistently had higher missing cases, peaking in May at 331 and typically ranging from 241 to 278 across other months. June is the only month where missing boys (277) outnumbered girls (69).

Seasonal patterns emerge, with spring months (March to May)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"In many cases, the reasons include elopement or academic struggles, with most adolescent girls who go missing having eloped. Each case has its own challenges, but those involving individuals who disappear far from home are particularly complex

—DCP South Lokesh B Jagalasar

Dirty diversion

Channel blocked so sewage is directly flowing into recently rejuvenated Gunjur Carmeralaram Lake

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Gunjur and Carmelaram and lake activists are worried about sewage being let into the Gunjur Carmelaram Lake that was rejuvenated recently. They want the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department to ensure that no sewage enters the lake that has been rejuvenated at a high cost.

Lake activists complain that sewage of nearby buildings and layouts is being let into the lake despite the authorities having constructed a sewage diversion channel. "I was very happy when the authorities took up rejuvenation work. They constructed a sewage diversion channel to prevent sewage from entering the lake but some people block the channel, facilitating sewage flow into the lake. Authorities concerned must fix this problem to see that the lake doesn't get polluted," said Chetan Gopal, a member of Friends of Lakes, an informal group of volunteers.

Accusing the BBMP Lakes Department of negligence, Karthik YG, a resident, told BM the Department had spent a lot of money for the rejuvenation of the lake but is not bothered about stopping sewage flow

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Solo classical brilliance

Nrityagram to present the solo debut performance of Anoushka Rahman, a talented Odissi dancer and member of The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble. This milestone performance marks the culmination of Anoushka's intensive training under the tutelage of Surupa Sen, artistic director of Nrityagram. Her solo debut will showcase the intricate beauty and expressiveness of Odissi, a classical dance form from Odisha. **Where: JNCASR Auditorium, Jakkur; When: November 9, 7 pm**

02 Classical medley

G Join "Lasyaprabha 2024," a unique classical dance festival by Nrityadhwani. Experience the artistic brilliance of a medley of two mother-daughter duos and one father-daughter duo, celebrating their beautiful relationships through dance. Each performance will weave a tapestry of love, empathy, and kinship, reflecting the celestial connections that resonate throughout the cosmos, and inviting audiences to experience the beauty of unity in diversity. Experience a scintillating Bharatanatyam duet by mother-daughter duo Anuradha and Rhea Vikranth, a magical Kathak duet by father-daughter duo Murali and Pavanee Kalvakalva, and Odissi duet by mother-daughter duo Yasomati Mishra and Saanvi Thakur, bringing to life the rich traditions of the dance. **Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road; When: November 9, 5.30 pm**

03 Alladin's 'whole new world'

The Brigade School at JP Nagar and Imbroglio Productions presents Disney's Aladdin Jr. The story you know and love has been given the royal treatment. With expanded characters, new songs, and more thrills, this new adaptation of the beloved story will open up "a whole new world" for young audiences. Conceptualised by Bangalore's production house, Imbroglio Productions. **Where: Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan, Vasanth Nagar; When: November 9, 6.30 pm**

Rice, wheat flour, lentil now at subsidised price

NCCF to start selling essential commodities to residents in 112 locations, using Aadhaar card and phone number

Ration card holders wait for their ration rice and kerosene at a PDS shop in Bengaluru (File photo)

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In light of the soaring prices of essential commodities, there is some relief for Bengalureans. Middle-class families who do not have ration cards can now get rice, wheat flour, chana dal, and moong dal at lower prices than the market price. The National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF), in association with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, has made arrangements to sell essential commodities at 112 locations across the city.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Bheem Rajesh, a distributor for NCCF, has said that each family can avail 10 kilograms of unpolished rice, 10 kg of wheat flour, one kg of chana dal, and one kg of moong dal by producing their Aadhaar card or mobile phone number at the authorised dealer of NCCF. "There was a provision to sell essential commodities at subsidised prices before the Lok Sabha elections. We have relaunched the sale of essential commodities after the Lok Sabha elections on the occasion of the Deepavali festival. Bengaluru is the second city where the sale of essential commodities is relaunched after Lok Sabha elections," said Rajesh.

He said that NCCF wants to make arrangements to sell the essential commodities through mobile vans at 112 locations in the city. He said that they have planned on putting up boards indicating the date and timings of mobile vans arriving at the respective locality for the benefit of consumers. "As of now, we have made arrangements to sell the essential commodities at 13 locations in Bengaluru North, 32 locations in Bengaluru West,

> **"We are yet to make arrangements to sell essential commodities in Bengaluru East and other zones**
> – Bheem Rajesh, distributor NCCF

and 12 locations in Bengaluru South. The new locations will be intimated to consumers. We are yet to make arrangements to sell essential commodities in Bengaluru East and other zones. We will cover all the zones shortly," he said. The NCCF is selling rice at Rs 34 per kg as against the market price of Rs 55 to Rs 60, wheat flour at Rs 30 per kg as against the market price of Rs 45 to Rs 50, chana dal at Rs 70 per kg as against Rs 90 to Rs 100 per kg, and moong dal at Rs 107 per kg as against the market price of Rs 120 to Rs 130.

Appreciating the NCCF for selling rice, wheat flour, chana dal, and moong dal at a subsidised price, Madhu Harish, a homemaker from Basaveshwara Nagar, has affirmed that the quality of rice is good. "Rice is good for making idlis, dosas, and pongal. I am happy to get chana dal and moong dal at less than the market price," said Harish.

Expressing a similar opinion, Parameshappa, a resident of Nandini Layout, has said the initiative to sell essential commodities at subsidised prices will benefit a lot of middle- and lower-middle-class families

Sudha Murthy and Narayana Murthy visit Shanti Gynec

Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murthy and Infosys founder Dr Narayana Murthy visited the newly upgraded Shanti Gynec festival on Sunday. During her interaction with the hospital's medical director, Dr Shilpa GB, Sudha Murthy discussed the rising infertility issues among women. She expressed concern about how lifestyle changes, dietary habits, and stress contribute to this increase. Following the event, Dr Shilpa GB stated that Sudha Murthy's visit to the renewed Shanti Gynec has bolstered their commitment. The hospital aims to provide comprehensive health care for women under one roof, addressing infertility issues and offering support to parents. Dr Shilpa noted that Shanti Gynec was established to provide advanced surgical care for women facing severe health challenges.

Sudha Murthy and Narayan Murthy at Shanti Gynec

The hospital offers 24/7 services, including infertility treatments (IUI, IVF), gynecology, laparoscopy, and maternity care. Pediatrician Dr Sanjay Gururaj, surgical oncologist Dr Mahesh Bandimegal, Dr Prakash Kini, obstetrician Dr Indira Reddy, Dr Nirmala BM, and Dr Chandrika Muralidhar were present. **— BMB**

Delivering 'defective statue' unacceptable: HC

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered an investigation into Bengaluru-based artist Krishna Naik's work on the Prashurama statue at Bailur theme park in Karkala taluk, Udupi district. The investigation centres on "substandard work" involving incorrect statue alignment, despite adherence to bronze metal specifications.

Although the National Institute of Technology (NITK), Suratkal, confirmed proper metal composition, the court maintained that Naik must face investigation for delivering a "defective statue" in haste. The court highlighted structural integrity issues, stating, "The sculpture lacked structural integrity, owing to entirely incorrect alignment. Though the petitioner was commissioned to craft the statue scientifically according to specifications and within the prescribed timeframe, he has delivered substandard work, prima facie. The defective work continues to undergo rectification."

NITK's analysis confirmed the statue contains 80% copper and 20% zinc, meeting standard bronze specifications. The court expressed concern over incomplete alignment corrections. "It is fortunate the statue did not collapse post-inauguration, endangering public safety," the court noted. Naik had received Rs 1.25 crore from the total Rs 1.8 crore project cost. **— BMB**

Disclaimer: Returns are subject to market con risk

1,000 cases of fraud under guise of experts giving investment advice in last 9 months, experts advise caution

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

You can dream all you want to become rich overnight through stock market investments, but caution is advisable before actually putting your money in any such scheme. As the city's cyber police stations are seeing a rise in the number of victims of investment frauds turning up at their door. Cyber scammers impersonate investment experts and defraud people of crores of rupees.

A senior police official said, "Cyber scammers are using the appeal of stock market profits to lure citizens, offering investment advice and promises of doubling their money through social media. Many, including IT employees, private sector workers, business people, are falling for these schemes, resulting in emptied bank accounts."

According to the official, in the last nine months, over 1,000 cases of fraud under the guise of trading have been reported in the city, amounting to a collective loss of more than ₹100 crore.

"These cybercriminals are active on WhatsApp, Telegram, and Instagram, sending random online links claiming to offer trading tips. Clicking on these links leads users to WhatsApp groups, where topics like trading, profits, and supposed success stories are discussed.

"Downloading any app for investment purposes without verifying its authenticity is also discouraged. Checking the app's origin, location of its office, and the country in which it operates is essential to avoid falling into these scams

Believing in these fake group discussions, interested individuals are tricked into investing anywhere from ₹1 lakh to ₹1 crore with fake stock market companies."

Cyber experts' advice

Cyber experts said that cyber scammers target people's trading interests and lack of knowledge using fake websites and apps in the names of legitimate stock market companies. An expert told BM, "Individuals interested in stock investments should consult only with their bank for safe investment options, as this approach also makes the bank accountable in case of fraud. I warn against trusting links on social media or WhatsApp groups that promise returns on investment, as 99% of such links are created for fraudulent purposes.

Downloading any app for investment purposes without verifying its authenticity is also discouraged. Checking the app's origin, location of its office, and the country in which it operates is essential to avoid falling into these scams."

AI misuse

Police said that driven by profit, scammers use AI technology to deceive victims by showing them fake balance sheets claiming profit on their investment, which convinces them to transfer more money.

Eventually, when victims attempt to withdraw their own money, scammers impose conditions like further investments before allowing withdrawals.

Only then do victims realise they've been scammed, prompting complaints to the police.

"In one case, cybercriminals used the name of Infosys founder Narayana Murthy and businessman Mukesh Ambani to create fake advertisements for trading. Believing these to be genuine, an elderly man lost ₹19 lakh. The victim, Ashok (name changed), filed a complaint with Bengaluru Rural Cyber Police after downloading an app following a Facebook video showing Murthy and Ambani allegedly endorsing an investment company.

Following the scammers' instructions, he transferred ₹19 lakh in stages before realising he had been defrauded," a police official added.

Filmmaker Guruprasad found dead in B'luru flat

Kannada actor and filmmaker Guruprasad was found dead in his Bengaluru apartment on Sunday morning. He was 52 years old. Police suspect that the filmmaker may have died by suicide.

According to Bengaluru Rural SP CK Baba, Guruprasad was going through financial distress and had recently returned to his apartment in Bengaluru.

"In a Madanayakahalli police station limits in an apartment, a 52-year-old filmmaker Guruprasad was residing. He was recently upset with something; films and other matters. He was going through financial distress also, it seems. So 4-5 days back he had come to this house. The neighbours had seen him coming to this house but after 5-6 days it appeared that he didn't come out of the house and he had hanged himself," said SP CK Baba.

"The investigation will continue under section 194. We will look into the details and the cause of the death," he added.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar took to his X account to express his shock and wrote, "I am deeply saddened to learn of the demise of Mr. Guruprasad, a creative director and a native of Kanakpur.

I pray that the soul of Guruprasad, who contributed his own style to the silver screen and television, may rest in peace. I also share in the pain of the deceased's family and loved ones. Om Shanti," he posted on X. Guruprasad was known for his satirical style of filmmaking.

His debut film Mata (2006) was widely appreciated, and his 2009 film Eddelu Manjunatha won the Karnataka State Film Award for Best Screenplay. **ANI**

Establish regulatory framework for nurseries: HC

91-year-old goes to court questioning acquisition of his property for nursery in BDA Layout

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that state authorities must establish a regulatory framework before exempting horticulture nurseries from land acquisition for any projects. The court declared that exemptions based on the January 1, 1987 Government Order must cease immediately.

The court stipulated that acquiring authorities can only exempt nurseries after implementing proper recognition protocols. A Division Bench comprising Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice M Nagaprasanna issued this ruling whilst dismissing a petition by a 91-year-old landowner who contested the acquisition of his property for the Dr Shivarama Karanth Layout by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA).

The court emphasised that BDA's land acquisition laws do not provide exemptions for nurseries, stating that a government order cannot supersede statutory provisions. The 1987 order, which originated from a Nurserymen Cooperative Society Ltd. representation, has been frequently utilised to seek land acquisition exemptions.

Need nursery regulation law

The bench noted Karnataka's lack of nursery regulation legislation, whilst highlighting that several states including Telangana, Maharashtra, and West Bengal have implemented such laws. The court mandated that nurseries must register with the National Horticulture Board until Karnataka establishes its regulatory framework.

The court clarified that genuine nurseries must involve regular plant cultivation for transplantation, sale, or scientific purposes. Simply maintaining and selling plants does not constitute nursery farming. Regarding the petitioner's case, the court found no evidence of nursery operations, with recent satellite imagery showing vacant land.

"They [nurseries] should be registered with the National Horticulture Board (NHB). It has a method of accreditation of nurseries, till the State would bring any regulatory regime in place.

There are a plethora of nurseries registered with the NHB. It is those nurseries only which can be brought within the term 'nursery' and cannot be vaguely determined by case specific government orders," the Bench said. **BMB**

Another truck stranded: B'luru's underpass woes

10-wheeler gets wedged, causing traffic disruption; authorities spend four hours freeing it, underscoring need for functional height gauge gates

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A 10-wheeler truck got stuck in the Palace Road underpass, causing yet another traffic disruption in Bengaluru on Saturday. Traffic police worked for four hours to free the vehicle, deflating its tyres and using a JCB to push it out.

10-wheeler truck stuck at Palace Road Underpass

Faulty gauge gates to blame

The truck driver miscalculated the height clearance, assuming his vehicle could pass through the underpass. However, this error was due to a broken height gauge gate, a safety measure meant to alert drivers of clearance limits, which should be installed outside every underpass.

A gauge gate is an iron structure resembling a parapet wall near underpasses. Positioned before the underpass, the gauge gate acts as a height clearance check, stopping any truck that exceeds the maximum allowed height from proceeding. This setup ensures that vehicles too tall for the underpass are halted before reaching it, avoiding potential accidents and damage.

Without a gauge gate to indicate height restrictions, truck drivers lack the information necessary to assess whether their vehicles can safely pass through. This incident follows a similar one just a month ago, pointing to the urgency for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to address this issue.

Recurring issue, yet no action taken

This incident is not an isolated one. Just last month, another truck faced the same issue due to the lack of a functional gauge gate. Despite these repeated incidents, authorities have not taken corrective action. Although traffic police could use temporary warning signs as a quick fix, the lack of proper gauge gates continues to pose a recurring risk.

BBMP yet to address the problem

While the BBMP has been made aware of the issue, no permanent solution has been put in place to address the lack of height restriction measures at several city underpasses.

"BBMP must take this matter very seriously and act proactively, as the consequences are severe, especially after similar incidents in the city, including the tragic death of a woman in a waterlogged underpass. It is BBMP's responsibility to ensure adequate measures are implemented," said Rajkumar Dugar, Founder and Convenor of Citizens for Citizens (C4C).

In the current incident, after four hours of effort, authorities released air from the truck's tyres to lower its height, and a JCB was employed to push the vehicle free. Fortunately, the obstruction caused minimal traffic disruption, as it occurred on a holiday with lower-than-usual vehicle flow.

DCP (Deputy Commissioner of Police) Traffic West, Anitha B said, "This issue should be taken into consideration by the BBMP, as they have been informed several times about the issue, and yet no action has been taken."

Need for a proper gauge gate

Traffic police and commuters are calling on the BBMP to urgently address this oversight and install properly functioning gauge gates to prevent further incidents. In the meantime, traffic officials may need to implement temporary sign boards or barriers to warn drivers about height limitations at underpasses, ensuring safer and smoother transit on busy city roads.

From eyesore to pleasant sight: Black spot transformed in Kumaraswamy Layout

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A black spot in Kumaraswamy Layout has been transformed into a clean, welcoming space by Youth For Parivarthan, a community-driven organisation, in collaboration with the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike). For 1.5 years, the area had been an eyesore and inconvenience for residents, eventually covering nearly half the road. The black spot, situated in a prominent part of the neighbourhood, had turned into a dumping ground, obstructing residents and BBMP staff tasked with maintaining the area. Garbage was piled up in heaps, spilling onto the roads. In response, Youth For Parivarthan organised a cleanup drive to address the issue, enlisting the help of over 35 volunteers who joined together for a seven-hour cleanup session. The group transformed the spot from a neglected, cluttered patch into a tidy, usable space that has drawn the admiration of residents.

Amith Amarnath, the founder of Youth For Parivarthan, disclosed the positive change that community efforts can bring. "It's truly rewarding to see people come together and take action for the well-being of their neighbourhood. Our goal is to inspire communities to care for their spaces, and it's encouraging to see how much of a difference we can make with just a bit of effort," said Amith.

This cleanup effort is one of many such drives organised by Youth For Parivarthan, which has been actively involved in transforming neglected spots around the city. For the volunteers, it was not just about clearing trash but also about fostering a sense of pride and ownership within the community. Working side-by-side with BBMP officials, the volunteers demonstrated that change is possible when local government and community organisations join forces. BBMP's active participation further underscores the importance of such collaborations. By working together with Youth For Parivarthan, BBMP officials showcased their commitment to keeping Bengaluru's neighbourhoods clean and pleasant for its residents.

File photo shows garbage piling up at Kumaraswamy Layout

The cleanup has not only resolved a long-standing issue but has also strengthened community bonds in Kumaraswamy Layout. Locals, who witnessed the space being restored, appreciated the efforts and expressed their hope that such collective actions would continue to tackle other civic issues.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

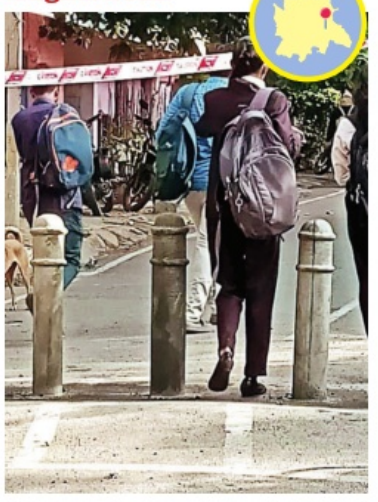
Footpath blocked

Residency Road

Vehicles blocking the footpath on Residency Road near the Embassy site push pedestrians onto the road. Traffic Police are urged to ensure barricades for safety.

Path obstructed

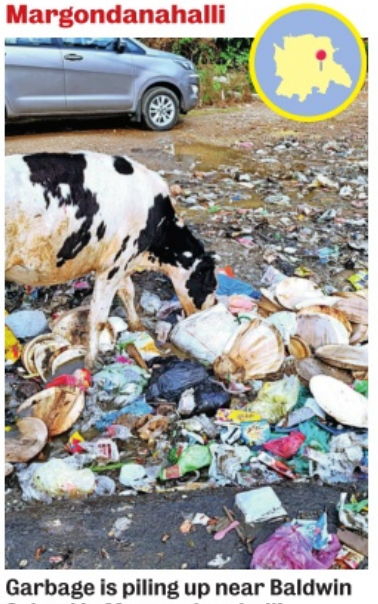
Magadi Road



Pillars on Magadi Road near Spinecare Hospital block the way for school children and elderly people.

Garbage pileup

Margondanahalli



Garbage is piling up near Baldwin School in Margondanahalli.

Deepavali Round-up

KAUSHIK JN

Showtime
Deepavali celebration light up the city sky

Fireworks dim city's air

As Deepavali ends, concerns grow over pollution levels; reports indicate drop in AQI in two areas, while noise pollutions stay same

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

As Deepavali wrapped up on Saturday, Bengaluru faced concerns not only from noise pollution but also from air pollution. Reports from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board revealed that air quality had dropped to 'poor' levels in two areas, while noise pollution levels remained relatively unchanged.

An official said, "According to data collected from air quality monitoring stations installed in 11 locations across the city, the average air quality index (AQI) on October 24 was satisfactory at 78. However, on Naraka Chaturdasi day (October 31), with heavy firecracker activity, the AQI surged to 153. An AQI between 101 and 200 poses respiratory and cardiovascular risks for individuals with pre-existing health conditions. The recent weather, marked by mist and cold nights, had contributed to the slow dispersion of dust and particulate matter in the air, worsening the effects of smoke from fireworks and further degrading air quality. Despite it being a festival day, traffic congestion remained high as many residents travelled from Bengaluru to their hometowns, which may have contributed to the air quality decline. As fireworks burst on Friday and Saturday, the poor quality continued. However, as the traffic volume was anticipated to be lower on those days, it was slightly better."

On Naruka Chaturdasi, heavy firecracker activity spiked AQI to 153

Poor air quality in two areas

In Hebbal, the AQI rose from 75 on October 24 to 263 on October 31, while in Jigani, it increased from 55 to 203 in the same timeframe. An AQI ranging from 200 to 300 indicates poor air quality, which can cause respiratory issues for prolonged exposure. At Silk Board, the AQI was 141 on October 24, which improved slightly to 170 on October 31. Kasturi Nagar saw its AQI rise from 67 to 154, and Jayanagar recorded an AQI of 68 on October 24, which decreased to 136 by the end of the month. Nimhans reported an AQI of 48 on October 24, although no subsequent data was available for October 31. RV College's AQI went from 92 to 121, while RR Nagar had an AQI of 131, with no data provided for October 31. Lastly, Sane Guruvara Halli showed a notable increase from 41 to 86 during the same period.

No increase in noise pollution

An official added, "Overall, there was no increase in noise pollution due to Deepavali fireworks on October 31. Data from measurement devices installed in nine locations showed that noise levels were lower on Deepavali compared to regular days. Most of these devices are situated near roadways and traffic signals, where reduced vehicle traffic during the festival also contributed to lower noise levels. For instance, noise levels at Church Street decreased from 69.78 decibels on October 24 to 66.95 decibels on October 31, while only Basaveshwara Nagar saw an increase from 73.1 decibels to 81.33 decibels."

> **Data from measurement devices showed that noise levels were lower on Deepavali compared to regular days** –Official

Firecracker mishaps lead to surge in injuries

Iffath Fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

This Diwali season has experienced a troubling surge in firecracker-related injuries, with over 100 eye injury cases reported at Bengaluru's eye hospitals. Hospital officials note an unusually high number this year, with Narayana Nethralaya treating 73 injuries, Minto Ophthalmic Hospital reporting 55, and Sankara Eye Hospital handling 18 cases.

One of the severe cases involved a 12-year-old girl from Mahalakshmi Layout who suffered extensive damage to her left eye when a "bullet bomb" she was lighting exploded. The impact led to a condition known as total hyphema, where blood fills the eye, and she has already undergone surgery. Doctors are closely monitoring her condition as she recovers.

In another incident, a 6-year-old boy, who approached a partially lit firecracker to check if it was still burning, sustained a serious injury to his right eye when it exploded suddenly. Medical staff are keeping him under close observation as he undergoes treatment.

In 2024, the increase in pediatric injuries related to firecrackers has been significant. Out of the 73 patients treated at Narayana Nethralaya, 35 were children aged between 8 and 18. Nine of these young patients suffered severe conditions like corneal tears, haemorrhages, retinal detachments, and lens dislocations. Dr Rohit Shetty, Chairman of Narayana Nethralaya, noted that many of these accidents occurred when children were unsupervised and involved risky practices, such as holding firecrackers or lighting them too close to their bodies. "Many of these injuries could have been prevented with simple safety measures. Wearing protective eyewear and maintaining a safe distance can make all the difference," he said.

KAUSHIK JN

Patient with eye injury

A worrying trend observed this year was that several victims were not those lighting the firecrackers but bystanders, including children and adults. A dangerous practice contributing to these injuries involves people throwing firecrackers from high-rise balconies, which poses serious risks to those below. This practice has affected many innocent people and raises the need for greater awareness and safer firecracker practices.

At Sankara Eye Hospital, out of the total 18 cases received, 4 have been adult cases and 14 have been pediatric cases out of which 5 are critical and 9 have been major injuries. Only two of the pediatric cases were self-inflicted, while the remaining 12 injuries occurred to bystanders. The youngest among them was a 3-year-old baby girl and the eldest was a 14-year-old boy. Out of the 4 adult cases, a 52-year-old person has critical injury and the rest of the injuries have been treated.

The rise in such incidents this year highlights an urgent need for both greater awareness and preventive measures to ensure a safer Diwali celebration in the future.

Stinky restroom takes joy out of walk in park

No water at Doopanahalli Park as borewell has been defunct for over 6 months

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Horticulture Department has been spending a huge amount for the maintenance of parks in the city. However, the condition of the park at Doopanahalli, especially the basic infrastructure, is far from satisfactory. The lack of basic amenities will cause a lot of inconvenience to the people who visit the park for a walk or to spend some time.

Shivakumar V, a social activist, confirmed that the toilets at the park have no water supply. "There is a water tank atop the toilet but has no water for the toilet. People, especially senior citizens, who visit the park are compelled to use the unhygienic toilet to attend nature calls. The toilet is stinky," said Shivakumar.

He accused BBMP Horticulture Department officials of having no accountability. "I was told that the borewell has been defunct for more than six months. I do not know what has prevented the BBMP Horticulture Department officials from fixing the borewell problem at the park. They are not bothered about the problems at the park. I want them to provide water supply to the toilets at the park immediately," he said.

Left: The condition of the footpath adjacent to the park at Doopanahalli; Right: Condition of restrooms is so pathetic that visitors to the park prefer to stay away

The toilet complex at the park was inaugurated on August 10, 2020, for the public by the elected representatives. However, the toilets have become dirty, with even some of the pipes missing. There is nothing to celebrate about the condition of the footpath adjacent to the park either. The remnants of a fallen tree are still on the footpath, causing inconvenience to pedestrians. "The toilets were inaugurated with much fanfare by the elected representatives four years ago. But now the BBMP Horticulture Department officials are not bothered about the condition of the toilets. It will be a great help for senior citizens if the BBMP authorities provide water supply to the toilets," said a resident.

> **"The new contractor is expected to take up the maintenance of the park soon. All the problems will be fixed shortly** – Kalpana, BBMP

Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said, "However, the lack of basic amenities, like clean toilets with proper water supply, is disappointing. The horticulture department and BWSSB (Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board) should collaborate to improve park infrastructure and should also look at rainwater harvesting in every park. They must also ensure that these spaces remain useful for citizens, especially senior citizens and children —seeking fresh air, exercise, and a break from their daily routines."

Meanwhile, BBMP Horticulture Department supervisor Kalpana said that the work order has been issued for the maintenance of the park. "The borewell is under repair at the park. The new contractor is expected to take up the maintenance of the park soon. All the problems will be fixed shortly," said Kalpana.

Stop sewage flow to prevent lake pollution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

into the lake. "I visit the lake because of its cool and calm atmosphere. The BBMP authorities must take measures to stop sewage flow. As of now, walking paths are developed and it would be a good place for people to visit for morning or evening walks," said Karthik, adding that all the money spent would be a waste if the authorities fail to fix this problem.

Expressing concern over pollution of the lake, Praveen Bhat, a resident of Gunjurpalya, said he tried to clear the sewage diversion channel with his friends, but in vain. "The rejuvenation work began more than one-and-half years ago. I appeal to the authorities concerned to clear the sewage diversion channel and ensure that no one blocks it in the future," said Bhat.

A resident, on the condition of anonymity, demanded that the BBMP Lakes Department focus on the lake which is set to get polluted due to diversion of sewage. "Preventive measures must be taken without any delay. The more delay, the more the lake water would get polluted. Has the BBMP Lakes Department forgotten about this lake?" the resident said.

BBMP Lakes Department engineer was not available for comment.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

CM Siddaramaiah, Dy CM DK Shivakumar at Rajyotsava award function in Bengaluru on Friday

Not 5 but 8.5 years

When asked about Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy's claim that the state government was heading towards bankruptcy because of its guarantee schemes, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar didn't hold back. "Kumaraswamy just can't digest the success of these schemes. He's worried people will reject his party outright," he remarked with a smile. As for Kumaraswamy's prediction of the governor's rule in Karnataka within six months, Shivakumar shot back confidently, "They can keep scheming to bring this government down, but they'll fail. Mark my words—this Congress government will be here not just for this term, but for the next 8.5 years."

'Not so much hike'

During long holidays, private bus fares often increase due to heightened demand, with allegations suggesting that ticket prices can rise by two to three times. When questioned by journalists, Additional Transport Commissioner (Enforcement) C Mallikarjun clarified the situation. "We have conducted raids at ten locations throughout the city. Our investigations revealed that the claims of private bus operators charging excessively—by two to three times—are not accurate. While there may have been increases of Rs 100 or Rs 200, we spoke with passengers traveling to Chennai or Hyderabad, and they confirmed that ticket prices had only risen by those amounts. The issue lies with some online booking platforms that display incorrect fares and destinations," he stated.

Campaign trail

Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan has been actively campaigning in Shiggaon, where a by-election is underway. The Congress party has faced internal dissent, and Khan has played a crucial role in calming the situation and persuading the rebel candidate to withdraw. When journalists asked whether he plans to remain in Shiggaon until the by-elections, Khan expressed his desire to travel to various locations.

Police-DC clash

The Hassanambe temple in Hassan opens its doors to devotees just once a year, resulting in a significant influx of worshippers. This year, the crowd became overwhelming, leading to a troubling incident involving police personnel and the staff of the Hassan Deputy Commissioner (DC) C Satyabhama, who criticised the police for their conduct and expressed her displeasure towards their behaviour. The conflict began when police halted a vehicle that was part of the official protocol. Reports indicate that a physical altercation occurred between DC PA Shashi and a sub-inspector, with claims that police forcibly removed PA Shashi from the area. Subsequently, DC Satyabhama arrived at the main entrance and reviewed the situation using CCTV footage. She warned that she would notify the Chief Secretary of the government and seek disciplinary action against those involved. This provoked a furious response from the police officers. Additionally, a heated argument ensued between Police Inspector Ravi and the DC, during which Ravi informed her that their female sub-inspector had sustained injuries.

Fight over funds

Recently, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar announced the allocation of Rs 10 crore in discretionary funds for every constituency in the city, but the Jayanagar and Dasarahalli constituencies were notably excluded. When journalists inquired about this decision, Shivakumar explained, "I have withheld the funds because the local MLA has made various statements against our government. He needs to prove his claims, and that is why we have stalled the release of funds. Once he proves his statements, we will reconsider." In response to further questions about the MLA's plans to protest, stating that citizens' taxes are at stake, Shivakumar remarked that the MLA is welcome to proceed with the protest and should not delay it.

Channapatna challenge

During a press interaction, Congress candidate CP Yogeshwara from Channapatna expressed a desire to shorten his conversation with the media. When questioned about his haste, he clarified that he wasn't in a rush himself; rather, he believed the media was eager to interview other candidates. Despite the press urging him to elaborate, he issued a challenge to JDS candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy, asserting that Nikhil is an outsider who lacks knowledge about Channapatna. Yogeshwara stated, "Let him first answer how many villages or hoblis are in Channapatna, and then I will respond to his allegations."

— Sridhar Vivan

No light matter: Tampering of weights goes on in B'luru

In last 17 months till August, Legal Metrology Dept conducts 20,391 inspections, registering over 5,000 cases

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Between April and August 2024 alone, officials conducted 4,912 inspections

Despite the prevalence of digital weighing machines, fraud in weights and measurements remains rampant in the city. Customers continue to be deceived on everyday essentials like steel, iron, petrol, fertilisers, rice, sugar, and pulses.

Although there are laws in place to prevent such malpractice, the Legal Metrology Department has struggled to shield consumers from a well-organised network of fraudulent vendors, with the absence of stringent regulations still leaving gaps in consumer protection.

Sources said that the trend of cheating in weights and measurements has persisted despite the implementation of legal safeguards. During the last 17 months up to August, the Legal Metrology Department conducted 20,391 inspections in Bengaluru Urban district, registering 5,375 cases and imposing fines amounting to ₹1.79 crore. Between April and August 2024 alone, officials conducted 4,912 inspections, filed 1,398 cases, and collected ₹39.10 lakh in fines. An official said, "The types of violations identified include failure to renew official stamping within specified intervals, selling goods with incorrect weights or measures, faulty auto meters, and unlabeled packaged products. Cases have been registered under Legal Metrology Act rules for each of these offenses."

The department has also intensified its checks on auto meters and petrol bunks. In October, officials identified 62 instances of meter fraud in the BBMP limits, imposing ₹2.92 lakh in fines on two stations alone. Additionally, officials conducted checks on 10,721 auto meters, imposing fines on 2,997 violators. Over the past 17 months, inspections on petrol stations, including stations in Dasanapura and Basavanagudi, led to the registration of 963 cases, with penalties totaling ₹15.12 lakh. Checks at KFCSC godowns and fair-price shops resulted in 138 cases and fines amounting to ₹5.99 lakh.

"We are encouraging consumers to file complaints if they suspect violations. If violations recur despite fines, cases will go to the courts. Consumers must pay attention to measurements and report suspicions through www.emapan.karnataka.gov.in/," an official added.

> **"We are encouraging consumers to file complaints if they suspect violations. If violations recur, cases will go to the courts** –Official

Drug store turns narcotic hub

The Tilak Nagar Circle police in Tumakuru have dismantled a drug racket that was selling prescription drugs often misused by addicts. Two individuals, including the owner of a local medical store, were apprehended, leading to the seizure of 1,700 narcotic tablets worth approximately ₹56,000. The accused are identified as Abdul Khader, the owner of AN Medicals Store on Melkote Road, and his associate, Beeresha Honnaraju, both residents of Tumakuru.

Routine patrol

The operation began with a routine patrol in Tumakuru's local smoking spots, often visited by addicts. Instead of the usual cigarette remnants, police noticed discarded syringes and empty pill packages, which raised suspicions. "This unusual discovery prompted us to investigate further into the origin of these substances," a police officer said. Police traced the source to Beeresha Honnaraju, who was reportedly selling pills at steep prices to addicts. These tablets, typically given only with a prescription, were allegedly bought in bulk by the accused and resold at ₹1,000 per sheet, nearly three times the actual cost. Abdul Khader, the owner of the store, is said to have facilitated the sourcing of these drugs.

Although these tablets are designed for oral use, addicts had developed a dangerous practice of diluting them with water for intravenous injection, according to police sources.

"This method of consumption significantly increases the health risks associated with these drugs," a police officer said.

During the operation, the police seized 1,700 narcotic tablets valued at ₹56,000, along with a scooter from the suspects. **— Atiya Firdos**

BM Finance Fundas

2 UPI changes: Auto top-up; transaction limit hike

The users of UPI Lite are in for a treat as two significant updates are set to enhance their digital payment experience. Starting November 1, 2024, your UPI Lite balance could be reloaded automatically when it falls below a certain threshold, thanks to the new UPI Lite auto top-up feature. This eliminates manual top-ups, ensuring uninterrupted digital transactions through Unified Payments

Interface (UPI) Lite. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also recently hiked the transaction limit of the UPI Lite. Let's understand how these two recent UPI Lite updates will help you.

UPI Lite auto-top-up feature likely to be rolled out

UPI Lite is a wallet that allows users to make small-value transactions without using a UPI PIN. Currently, UPI Lite users have to manually reload their wallet balance from their bank account to continue making payments. However, with the new auto-top-up feature, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) aims to streamline this process, eliminating the need for manual reloading. In a press release of August 27, NPCI said, "With this feature, the UPI Lite balance will automatically be reloaded by an amount chosen by the user, not exceeding UPI Lite balance limit, whenever the balance falls below a minimum limit set by them."

How to auto top-up your UPI Lite wallet balance For example, you can soon set a minimum balance on UPI Lite, say Rs 50. Whenever your balance drops below this threshold, your UPI Lite wallet will be automatically reloaded with a fixed amount from your linked bank account.

The reload amount also needs to be set by you and it cannot exceed the overall wallet limit i.e. Rs 2,000. Up to five top ups will be allowed on the UPI Lite account in a day.

Deepak Chand Thakur, Co-founder and CEO of NPST Ltd says, "The timely introduction of UPI Lite auto top-up is a significant stride in the evolution of digital payments. Perfectly aligned with UPI's convenience-focused ethos, this feature simplifies small-ticket payments by eliminating the need for constant balance monitoring. Users can set one time auto-fill instructions to automatically replenish their UPI wallet balances when it dips below a specified threshold, thus minimising wallet dormancy."

"This added convenience is poised to further drive the adoption of UPI, expanding its user base and contributing to the broader expansion of the digital payments ecosystem," he further adds. The NPCI also directed, "Members who are live on UPI Lite are requested to hereby note the changes and enable the feature by 31st October 2024." So, it is likely that you will be able to use an auto top-up feature on UPI Lite from November 1, 2024. NPST has confirmed that they are going to roll out the new auto top-up feature within the October 31 deadline.

UPI Lite limit hiked

Currently, UPI Lite users can make transactions up to Rs 500 per transaction. Additionally, the maximum balance that can be held in a UPI Lite wallet is capped at Rs 2,000. The cumulative maximum daily spend limit has been set at Rs 4,000 for UPI Lite wallet users.

To encourage wider adoption of UPI Lite, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to increase the maximum transaction limit of UPI Lite from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000. Additionally, it has also increased the UPI Lite wallet limit from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000. Yashwant Lodha, Cofounder, PayNearby says, "To truly drive financial inclusion, it's essential to make digital payments more accessible through continuous innovation. The increase in the per-transaction limit for UPI Lite wallet limit to Rs 5,000 with a Rs 1,000 per transaction limit, are critical steps by the regulator in this direction."

Keep in mind that UPI apps are yet to roll out increased limit for UPI Lite.

— By Anulekha Ray, ET Online

Motives range from financial gain to social issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

seeing more cases, especially for girls, possibly linked to school schedules, holidays, or other seasonal factors. After the June spike, boys' cases fell to more consistent levels (80-101), while girls' cases remained relatively high.

The summer months stabilise the numbers; July records 80 boys and 201 girls, while August and September maintain the trend -- August 90 boys and 254 girls, September 91 boys and 257 girls missing.

DCP South Lokesh B Jagalasar explained to BM about the number of kidnapping cases. He said that as per a Supreme Court directive, if any missing child under the age of 18 years goes missing, it must be treated as a kidnapping case.

"This means that all missing minors are automatically classified under kidnapping," he said. "In many cases, the reasons include elopement or academic struggles, with most adolescent girls who go missing having eloped. Each case has its own challenges, but those involving individuals who disappear far from home are particularly complex. Elopement cases are also challenging since minors often take steps to disconnect from their families, making it difficult to locate them."

The data on kidnapping cases categorised under children, women and scheduled caste reveals that in January, a staggering 374 children were reported kidnapped, along with 10 women and seven cases involving individuals from scheduled castes.

The numbers show a slight decline over the following months, with February recording 366 child kidnappings and a marginal increase in crimes against women and scheduled castes.

March sees 359 children kidnapped, while April dips to 317. However, May shocks with a peak of 437 child kidnappings, highlighting a pressing concern. The following months display a mix of stability and slight declines, with July at 303 and August rising again to 375 child cases. September reveals a decrease in crimes against women (6) and scheduled castes (2).

Several factors contribute to the rising incidents, with motives ranging from financial gain to deeply rooted social issues. Ransom demands are among the most prevalent, particularly involving children, who are abducted and often forced into street begging operations.

Young women are also frequent targets in these schemes, where captors demand large sums from their families or use the victims for exploitative purposes.

Human trafficking is another persistent threat, primarily affecting young girls abducted for prostitution or subjected to abusive environments

under the guise of employment. Many cases reveal that young girls are illegally transferred across states or even internationally, where they are exploited for forced labour or trapped in harmful situations without any legal recourse. In some cases, children and young adults are taken with the intention of exploitation within illegal industries, such as camel racing or even organ trafficking, police said.

In addition to exploitation and ransom, cases involving espionage or theft motives have also increased. Children may be used to obtain confidential information, blackmail, or steal from their own families, often under coercion.

Some kidnappings end in homicide, with the abductor intending to eliminate witnesses or obtain revenge. This form of crime, authorities noted, has become particularly difficult to detect and prevent, as it is often carefully premeditated.

The problem is not limited to one type of motive, with wrongful confinement, coerced debt recovery, forced marriages, and even cases involving individuals taken for sexual exploitation or illicit relationships surfacing with disturbing frequency. Forced labour is another issue, as minors are kidnapped and sent to work in gruelling conditions far from their homes, often in areas that offer limited oversight or protection.

Law enforcement agencies in Bengaluru have transferred three cases so far this year to other departments, while 393 cases have been closed as legitimate. Despite this, 363 cases remain under investigation, and 28 are pending trial, reflecting both the complexity and scale of the issue at hand.

Homemaker found dead, parents blame husband

A 37-year-old homemaker was found dead under mysterious circumstances at her home in Cottonpet on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Geetha, who was married to a private firm employee named Muralimohan a few years ago.

According to the complaint filed by the parents, Muralimohan has been harassing Geetha over the past few months. They also alleged that Geetha was killed and it is being dressed up as suicide. **BMB**

Police arrest a gang for stealing high end cars

The Annapoorneshwari Nagar police busted a gang from Rajasthan on Sunday for hacking electronic systems of high-end cars to steal them.

The police analysed hundreds of CCTV cameras and arrested the three members of the gang who would come to the city by flights to steal cars. The modus operandi of this gang was to target residential areas, identify cars parked outside and take control by hacking into its system. The accused are a part of inter-state operation as they would sell the cars to other parts of the country. **BMB**

Your Connect

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

BANASHANKARI

3BHK Spacious duplex flat for sale in a prime BDA location of Ashok Nagar, BSK 1st Stage. 3 Bathrooms. Rs.2.25 Cr. Contact: 9739703182/ 9739702982.

DEVANAHALLI

NANDI hills road gated 18.6 gunta converted eKhata 15 fully furnished rooms solar garden ready to occupy sale 9Cr non-nego Ph: 9677002197

HEBBAL

HEBBAL 3BHK APARTMENT
2400 Sqft. For SALE
Price - 2Cr.
9731308328
9739448826

FOR SALE 3 BHK Duplex Apartment near Hebbal (2400 Sqft) Price 2Cr. Con : 9731308328 / 9739448826

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AROUND

PROP-BUY-SELL-MELA: 40x60/ 50x80/ 100'x100' Sites In Ramanashree California/ Judicial Layout / International Airport Road/North-Bangalore Prime Residential/Commercial Properties - Direct Registration Buyers /Sellers /NRI's/HNI's/ Investors- Raghav@Bangalore Estates:98450-54356 /98803-77799

JAYANAGAR

3BHK Semi Furnished Spacious Flat For Sale Near South End Circle,Opp Pai Vista Convention Hall. Rs.1.49 Cr. Ph: 6362386188, 9844962765

KORAMANGALA

A'LBLE 1500 Sqft & 200 to 700 Sqft Furnished, office space for Rent Rs 21000 to 1 Lakh, JNC Road, Koramangala, 1st Floor call Owner Rajesh 98451 67755

PADMANABHA NAGAR

3BHK Ready2Move Flats for Sale, Opp: Kadharenahalli Petrol Pump. Vaastu Compliant. Rs.78 lacs. Call: 9739702982, 9739703182

RMV EXTENSION

2 & 3 BHK flats for sale at Nageshetty Halli RMV 2nd stage possession in February with OC contact: 63623 77418

FOR SALE

BANGALORE

BUILDING for sale G+3 floors Total 15 flats 1BHK & 2BHK A KATHA approved by all banks GB Palya Bangalore exp 2.90cr Simha 9036706304

OUTSIDE BANGALORE

MYSORE

SITES @MYSORE DTCP Facing 226ft State Hwy 'A' Khata,RERA Rs.2050/ Sft,85% Loan, Immd Reg, Near HD Kote Rd,10Mins Airport/Ring Rd,15Mins Palace/ Railway station GSS: www.gssprojects.in 9845287802/ 8050001571

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS

WE Undertake All Types Of Civil Work. Building Renovation, Flooring, Falseceiling, Kitchen Co Boards/ Wardrobes. All Type of Fabrication Works, Plumbing, Electrical and Painting works. New Building Construction etc with 30 Years of Exp Call: 9019239712

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

COMMERCIAL Property for RENT. 1200 Sft + 800Sft off Lalbagh main rd Opp Passport office 1st Cross SGN Layout Contact Whattsapp 98450 06003.

PROPERTY WANTED

25 APARTMENTS Required North/East/West Bangalore (2 & 3 BHK)
LAND OWNERS
Contact: 9731308328

TO PURCHASE 2 & 3 BHK 25 Apartments Required Land Owner Shares are Welcome 9731308328

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Vivekanand Shivkant Biradar S/o Shivkant Biradar R/o 1011,16th A Cross,1st Stage 5th Block,Hbr layout,Nagavara Bengaluru-560045 have changed my name to Vivekanand Biradar for all purposes.

I Swathi Pawar Nagaraja D/O, Nagaraja Rao R/o 105, Royal Classy Apartment, 7th B Main, Bandappa Garden, Muthyalnagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560054 have changed my name to Swathi Pawar Nagaraja Rao.

I Humza Radi Rohe Avesh S/O, Radi Rohe Avesh R/o 28/2, New Bamboo Bazaar H K P Road, Bengaluru - 560051 have changed my name to Humza Radi Rohe.

I, Rashmi Shrikant Angadi W/o Lokesh Nagappa Hosapeti R/o Yaraganavi, Madamageri, Belgaum, Karnataka-591129 have changed my name to Vinuta Lokesh Hosapeti for all purposes.

I, Jhilik Mazumder R/O Plot No 5, Flat No 7, 1st cross, Thimma Reddy Layout, Naganathapura, Blr-560100 changed my name from Jhilik Majumder to Jhilik Mazumder for all future purposes.

I, Jival Raghav S/o, Balaji Sankaran R/o 15,6th Cross ,ecc Road , Prithvi Layout , Whitefield . Bengaluru - 560066 have changed my name to Jival Raghav Balaji for all purposes.

THE TIMES GROUP

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times Of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owners of The Times Of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

GALLERIA

ACADEMY OF MUSIC CHOWDIAH MEMORIAL HALL

SRI. K. K. MURTHY MEMORIAL MUSIC FESTIVAL & ACADEMY OF MUSIC CHOWDIAH AWARD-2024
6th to 10th November 2024 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall

Tickets on bookmyshow

Wednesday, 6th November 2024

6:30 - 7:30 pm
Violin Concert by
Dr. AMBI SUBRAMANIAM

7:30 - 9:30 pm
Karnatic Vocal Concert by
Vid. SANDEEP NARAYAN

Thursday, 7th November 2024

6:30 pm onwards
Hindustani and Karnatic Flute Jugalbandhi by
Pt. PRAVIN GODKHINDI (Hindustani Flute)

Vid. SHASHANK SUBRAMANYAM (Karnatic Flute)

Friday, 8th November 2024

6:30 pm onwards
Flute & Violin Jugalbandhi by
Pt. RONU MAJUMDAR (Flute)

Vid. R. KUMARESH (Violin)

Saturday, 9th November 2024

6:30 pm onwards
Veena & Sitar Jugalbandi
Dr. SUMA SUDHINDRA (Veena)

USTAD SHAFIQUE KHAN (Sitar)
accompanied by Vid. Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma & Laya Lavanya - 10 member Talavadya Group

Sunday, 10th November 2024

6:00 pm - AWARD FUNCTION

Presentation of ACADEMY OF MUSIC CHOWDIAH AWARD 2024 to

Dr. Suma Sudhindra

Presentation of ACADEMY OF MUSIC PRATHIBA PURASKAR AWARD to

Sri. Dhananjay Hegde

INSTITUTION AWARD to The Bangalore Gayana Samaja

7:00 pm
Hindustani Vocal Concert by

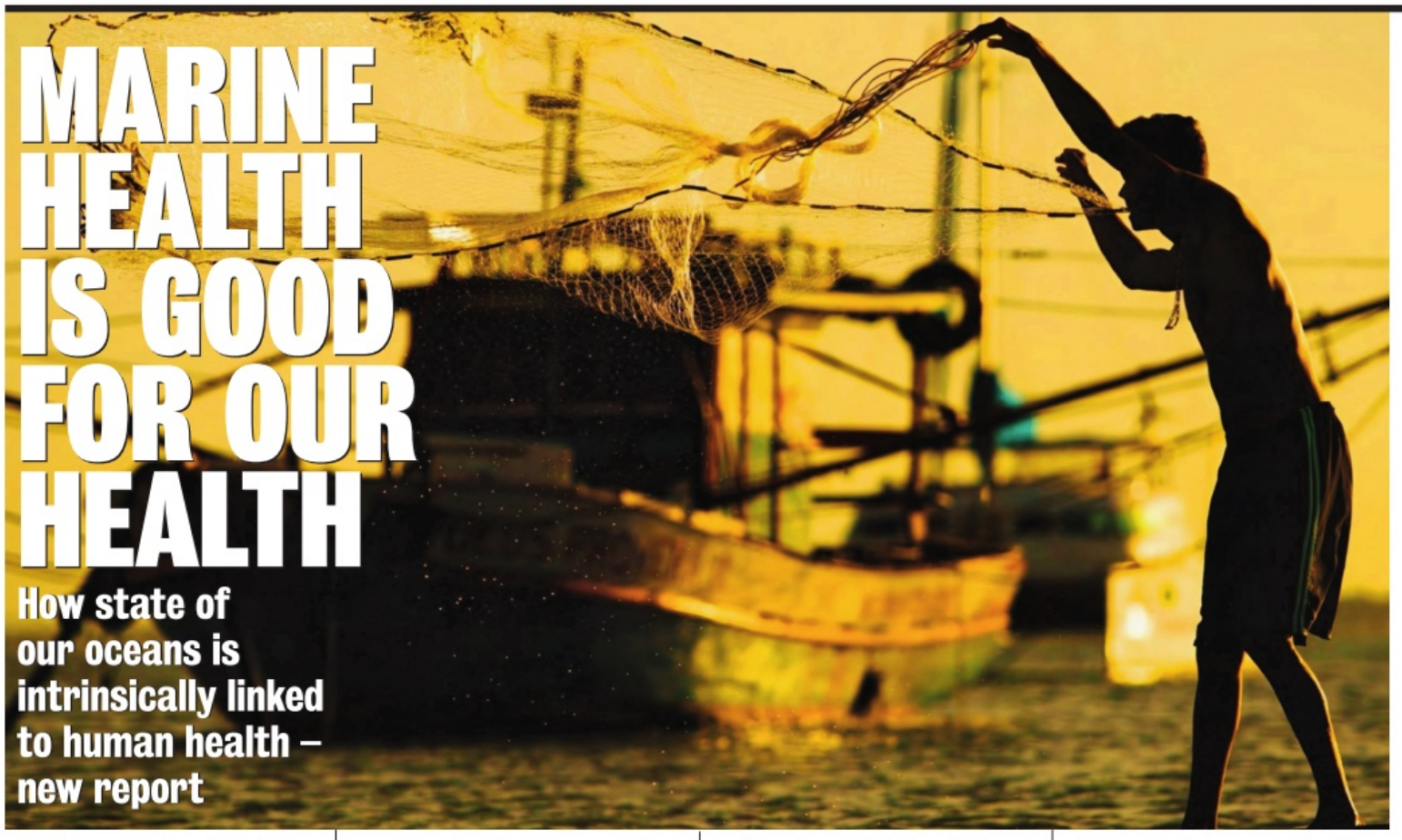
Smt. KAUSHIKI CHAKRABORTY

HEALTH TIP: To ease any digestive discomfort, boil cumin with cinnamon and sip on this concoction

The anti-fungal properties of lemon can keep your scalp healthy

BangaloreMirror | 9
Monday, November 4, 2024
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

MARINE HEALTH IS GOOD FOR OUR HEALTH



How state of our oceans is intrinsically linked to human health – new report

A new study published in the journal OneEarth explores how marine biodiversity conservation, human health and wellbeing are connected. The results suggest that marine protected areas can be good for both the planet and people. These areas of the ocean are legally recognised by governments as being important for marine conservation. They are protected by putting limits on human activity within and around them.

Once a government declares a marine protected area, you usually can't live in it, fish, build a beach resort, start a fish farm or drill for oil in it. The rules vary from place to place, but the idea is to allow nature to flourish by limiting human activity as much as possible.

With plans to expand ocean protection under the UN-endorsed biodiversity plan's "30x30" target (which aims to protect 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030), it's important to know how this will affect people as well as nature.

The study was conducted by the conservation charity World Wide Fund for Nature, Harvard Institute of Public Health and Duke University's marine laboratory. The team, led by marine conservation scientist Daniel Viana, reviewed all the scientific articles written since 1973 on marine protected areas and their impacts on people.

They found that, for 234 marine protected areas across the world that have been closely monitored, more than 60% showed improvement in both nature conservation and human wellbeing.

The study included marine protected areas that do allow "sustainable use" through managed and selective fishing activities. These are fishing methods, such as using a hook and line or a fish trap, that don't cause physical damage to delicate habitats like coral reefs.

The paper suggests that in most cases, investing in marine protected areas directly benefits the health and livelihoods of people who live near them. Increased harvests of fish and other aquatic foods, such as shellfish and seaweeds, are usually the source of the benefits. Fisherfolk's incomes increase and community access to nutrient-rich aquatic food improves.

The benefits of marine protection for fishing-based livelihoods are largest in small island states that have big marine protected areas, such as Bonnaire, Palau and the Cook Islands, where more than 95% of fish catches are associated with area-based conservation measures.

Despite ample evidence that marine protection improved access to aquatic food, the authors found surprisingly few studies that directly measured the impact to human nutrition. Only three out of the 237 studies reviewed had studied how creating marine protected areas affected the diets of people living around them. Only one study, in the Philippines, made the link between diets and health outcomes, because, when access to fish in diets improved due to marine conservation, there were fewer stunted children from surrounding communities.

Plenty more nutrients in the sea?

Our continents and islands are surrounded by seas, lakes, rivers and floodplains that are populated by edible plants and animals rich in vitamins, minerals and fatty acids. These micronutrients from aquatic foods are highly bioavailable (easily absorbed by the body). If sustainably harvested and made available to nutritionally vulnerable people, they could prevent malnutrition among millions of coastal people.

The new report has quantified the micronutrient contributions to human diets from the aquatic foods that flourish when marine protected areas are set up. It combines data on the nutrient composition of all the aquatic foods harvested in and around marine protected areas, with fish catch data from the surrounding areas.

The existing marine protected area network supports 14% of the global supply of six key micronutrients from marine fishing. This is achieved by protecting only 8% of the world's oceans. By allowing marine life to grow abundantly inside protected areas, nearby fish populations are replenished. So, by conserving marine wildlife, protected areas help to sustain fish and shellfish stocks.

That means bigger catches, more income from fishing or tourism, and more food. More nutrients means better health. This applies both to marine protected areas with a strict no-take zone, where any form of fishing is banned, and those that allow regulated fishing.

As populations increase, demand for aquatic food rises. Wild harvests are being supplemented by aquaculture and mariculture – these are freshwater and marine equivalents to growing crops and livestock on land. Over half of the aquatic foods consumed directly by humans are now produced from aquaculture, much of it in inland waters rather than the sea.

But in many countries, particularly island and coastal nations in the developing world, harvesting wild food from marine ecosystems remains crucial to nourishing the over 3 billion people who get more than 15% of their animal source proteins from aquatic foods.

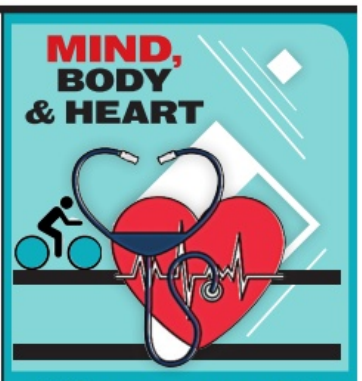
Despite their potential to address global micronutrient nutrition, aquatic foods have, until recently, been underrepresented in policies and programmes to end hunger and malnutrition. But with data on the nutritional composition of the world's fish species now available, studies like this can advance an approach called "nutrition-sensitive fisheries and aquaculture": Instead of fishing to maximise catch or profit, fisheries could be managed to optimise their contribution to human nutrition.

Linking ocean conservation with human health is an exciting idea but there are gaps in the research. It's not clear who benefits when income from tourism and fishing increases, or whether increased catches get to those that need it most. In the Maldives for example, more than 80% of reef fish are consumed by tourists, not locals.

Trying to solve malnutrition with marine protected areas is going to be challenging. Many marine protected areas are not effectively managed. By contrast, 77% of catches from the world's fisheries come from stocks that are managed sustainably, though they have little room for expansion to meet rising demand. Aquaculture can do that, but the sector is still moving towards sustainability.

Many key threats to marine ecosystems and wild fisheries, such as climate change and pollution, are not effectively dealt with by local marine habitat protection alone. Despite these challenges, this study highlights that nature-human relationships can be regenerative, rather than exploitative.

(By Edward H Allison, Lancaster University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

CVD & smoking

Dosage matters
Smoking and cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk have a dose-dependent association, with light ex-smokers having a CVD risk similar to that of never-smokers relatively soon after smoking cessation, a new study has revealed.

Heavy ex-smokers
For heavy ex-smokers, greater than 25 years might be required for the residual CVD risk to align with that of never-smokers, said the study published in the journal JAMA Network Open.
The study sought to find an answer to the question: How long does a person need to quit smoking to lower cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk?

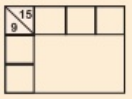
Risk studied
In the cohort study of extracted data from the Korean National Health Insurance Service database with more than 53 lakh participants, ex-smokers who had accumulated less than 8 pack-years (PY) did not exhibit a significantly increased risk of CVD compared with never-smokers.
However, for ex-smokers who had accrued at least 8 PY, more than 25 years were needed for the residual CVD risk of smoking to disappear, the findings showed.

Point of no return
The study evaluated the associations among smoking cessation, lifetime smoking burden and CVD risk according to the number of years elapsed after smoking cessation.
"These results have important implications for clinical practice and public health. Regardless of smoking cessation status, smoking and CVD risk exhibit a clear dose-response association, emphasising the importance of preventing smoking initiation altogether," said authors.
For people who start smoking, if their cumulative smoking amount does not exceed a certain threshold or the so-called point of no return -- 8 PY in this study -- they may quit smoking with marked clinical improvements expected soon after quitting. **—IANS**

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

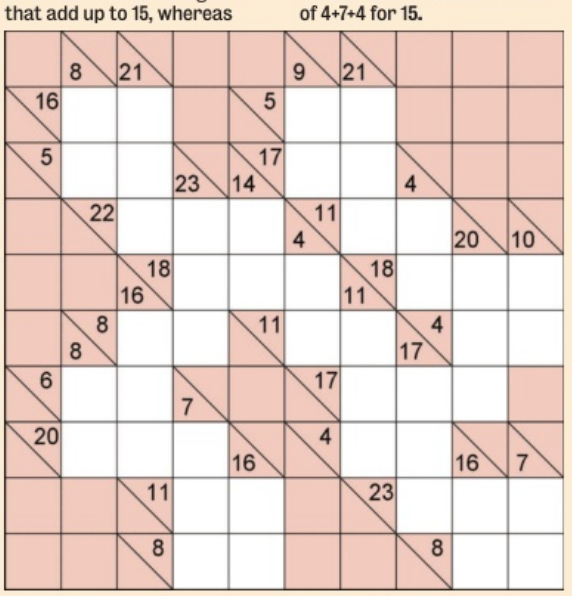
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

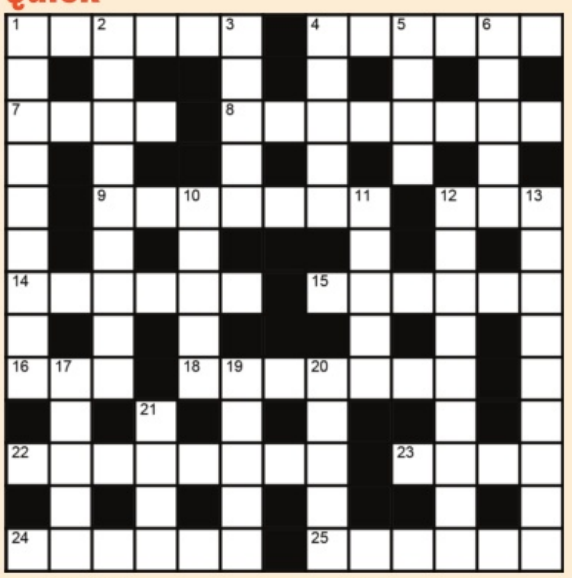


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Lea or hayfield (6)
4 An excessive accumulation of serous fluid (6)
7 Reign (4)
8 Looks at (8)
9 Vivid (7)
12 Light knock (3)
14 The ocean which surrounds us (6)
15 Liquid substance; alcoholic drink (6)
16 ___ a bet : deposit as a wager? (3)
18 Excavated or gathered in? (7)
22 22 acre park between M.G Road and Cubbon Road (8)
23 Courage (4)
24 Not as fresh (6)
25 Dodged by cleverness (6)

DOWN

1 Lively and volatile (9)
2 In manner supposed (9)
3 Unmannerly child, a brat (5)
4 Script symbols (5)
5 Lacklustre (4)
6 Mediterranean Isle (5)
10 People of Iraq (5)
11 Opposite of limp (5)
12 Sounded very loudly? (9)
13 Persevered, endured or remained (9)
17 Make suitable (5)
19 Escapade (5)
20 Egg-shaped (5)
21 Small medicine bottle (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS G

JXUGMR GJ RDT'J ZHN DY JHNGMR, 'DMQ SDUQ EGSQ!

Linemaro

You are like a dwarf star, extremely hot

Mindchow

You are always responsible for how you act, no matter what you feel

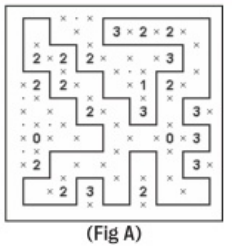
Joke of the day

What do you call part-time band leaders? Semi-conductors

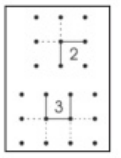
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



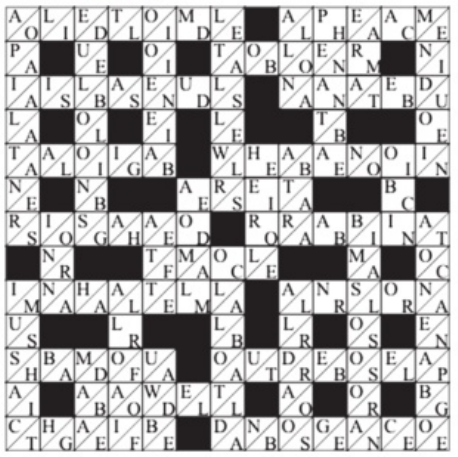
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

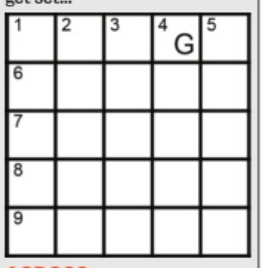
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Amigo; 6 Inner; 7 Caned; 8 Ropes; 9 Or yet

DOWN

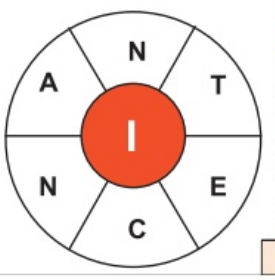
1 Paint; 2 I'm roc; 3 On Nay; 4 eg See; 5 Err do

Mensapuzzle

Below are the numbers 1-9. The object is to insert a plus or minus sign between the numbers so that the total of all nine numbers is 100. You can combine adjacent numbers (like 5, 6 can be 56 or 1, 2 can be 12). There are several ways to solve the puzzle.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3			4		7			2
		7				9		
			8	3	5			
5		6	7		2	4		1
		9				3		
2		1	9		3	6		7
			1	7	9			
		5				2		
8			5		6			3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 27

3 6 9 9

Medium = 10

2 6 6 8

Hard = 9

1 2 6 1

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Golf bag strap is different. 3. Putter is longer. 4. Sock is missing. 5. Mouth is different. 6. Leg is moved.

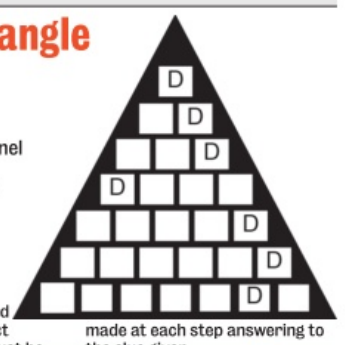
Riddler

In each sentence below, two words are incomplete. The two words end in the same three letters, so they look like they should rhyme, but they don't. See if you can figure out the missing letters in each sentence.

1. That bully must ce___ to te___ his fellow students.
2. By his 18th birthday, the prince had gr___ into his cr___.

Alpha triangle

1 Five hundred
2 Overdose, abbr.
3 Incline the head
4 Completed
5 Shaped like a funnel
6 Minted
7 Reveal in private



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

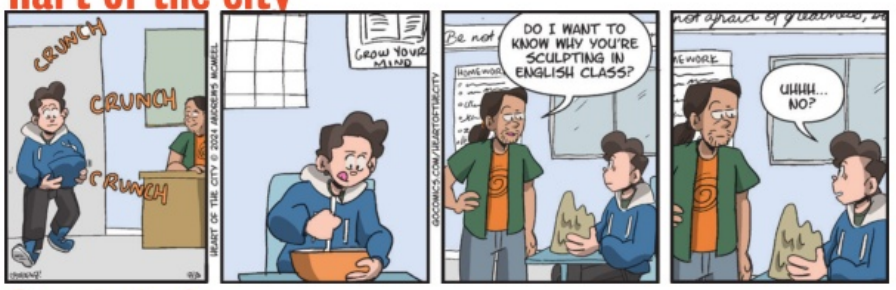
WHEN SOMEONE FREES AN UNGENIE THEY BECOME ITS SLAVE!
YOU FREED ME AND I AM AN UNGENIE!
YOU ARE MY SLAVE AND HAVE TO FULFILL MY WISHES!
GO GET ME A GOAT, SLAVE! YOUR MASTER DESIRES A DRINK OF THE DIVINE NECTAR!
YER CRAZY!! I WON'T DO IT! ME SON DON'T ALLOW GOATS IN HIS HOUSE!
YOU CAN'T SAY NO TO ME! YOU HAVE TO DO AS I WISH, AND I WISH FOR GOAT'S MILK!

Bizarrotrip

I know you are, but what am I?
Fine. See you again in three months.
QUARTERLY RETORT
Wayno & Piraro
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM 7-30-24
©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft

YOU'VE GOT A PHONE CALL ABOUT YOUR GRILLING, DAD!
IS IT FROM GUY FIERI ON THE FOOD CHANNEL?
NO... THE EPA!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
© 2024 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
7-30

Mutts

EARL, WHY MUST I BE THE ONE SHTUCK IN A CARRIER WHEN WE GO ON VACATION!?!
MOOCH, LAST TIME DIDN'T YOU JUMP ON FRANK WHILE HE WAS DRIVING?
YESH.
HE WOULDN'T SHTOP FOR ICE CREAM
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com
7-30

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by Jupiter and the moon. You may receive rewards for your social services, and your seniors may appreciate you, potentially leading to a promotion. Previous losses may turn into profits, increasing business liquidity. You may plan to invest more capital into the family business, which will likely boost its growth shortly.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel happy, and your health is good, providing you with inner strength and self-confidence. Your conscience may keep you from manipulating complex tasks, helping to maintain your reputation. Your social prestige is likely to increase.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, as it could lead to losses due to your choice of words in conversations. Lovebirds should be cautious in discussions to avoid potential impacts on the relationship.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel peaceful. You might plan to invest some capital in your business, which could improve liquidity. Your earnings may enhance your financial health, and romantic moments with your spouse could strengthen family harmony. Singles may find a suitable match, and lovebirds may consider marriage. Students will benefit from good karma.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel very happy, with previous losses potentially turning into profits. Your seniors may appreciate your work, leading to possible changes in position or responsibilities through a promotion. Opponents and hidden adversaries may be under control. Singles and lovebirds may consider marriage with the help of friends or family.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon, and your health may be good. You might plan to visit a religious place with family or friends and donate to a religious organisation or charity. Property-related deals could be finalised, and you may consider an overseas work-related trip.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be targeted by conspiracies, so avoid getting involved in controversies. Your strong willpower and blessings from elders may help protect you in this critical situation. Avoid arguments in your love life and refrain from reckless driving or adventurous activities

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel happy and at peace. Your focus on your goals is strong, and you might enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, strengthening your bond. You may also be occupied with other domestic matters.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel enthusiastic, and your performance at work may improve, strengthening relations with your seniors. New responsibilities or a promotion may be in store. Positive news may come in legal matters, and any hidden enemies may be kept at bay.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may easily complete difficult tasks, boosting your confidence. Past investments may yield good returns. However, you are advised to avoid arguments on trivial topics to make better use of your time.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today may not be favourable. You might feel unhappy or dissatisfied with your current situation. It's advised to remain patient and avoid making any rushed decisions. Also, take extra care of your parents' well-being.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel enthusiastic, with a strong focus on your goals, allowing you to achieve targets with ease. Short work-related trips are possible and may bring future benefits. Colleagues and friends might assist you in completing important projects.

KIDZONE

Sanjanna V, Bengaluru

S TANMAYI, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
20 - (20 -(10 + 1))
20 - (20 -11)
11

BULL'S EYE
ANCIENT, antic, canine, cite, inane, innate, nice, nine, tine

STRIKE OUT

O	L	D	T	I	M	E		A	P	A	C	E		
P	U		O		A	B	L	E	R		N			
I	S	L	A	N	D	S		A	N	T	E	D		
A	L		I		E		T		O					
T	A	I	G	A		L	E	B	A	N	O	N		
E		N		A	S	I	A		B					
S	I	G	H	E	D		R	A	B	B	I	T		
	R		F	A	C	E		A		O				
M	A	H	A	T	M	A		A	R	S	O	N		
I		B	O	W	E	L		A		O		G		
S	A	M	O	A		A	U	R	E	O	L	A		
U		L		B		R		S		N				
L	A	Y		S	C	O	O	P	E	D		I		
A		L		B		S				N		S		
I	N	D	I	A	N		L	I	O	U	O	R		
	R		E		R			H		E				
U		G	R	A	P	H	I	C		T	A	P		
C		E		L		L		B		T		O		
R	U	L	E		E	Y	E	B	A	L	L	S		
E	L		H		B		R		A					
M	E	A	D	O	W		O	E	D	E	M	A		

QUICK

C	H	A	F	E		A	B	S	E	N	C	E		
H		B	O	W	E	L		A		O		G		
A	M	O	A		A	U	R	E	O	L	A			
I		L		B		R		S		N				
R		F	A	C	E		A		O					
E	N		A	S	I	A		B						
S	I	G	H	E	D		R	A	B	B	I	T		
T	A	I	G	A		L	E	B	A	N	O	N		
A	L		I		E		T		O					
P	U		O		A	B	L	E	R		N			
I	S	L	A	N	D	S		A	N	T	E	D		
S	A	M	O	A		A	U	R	E	O	L	A		
U		L		B		R		S		N				
L	A	Y		S	C	O	O	P	E	D		I		
A		L		B		S				N		S		
I	N	D	I	A	N		L	I	O	U	O	R		
	R		E		R			H		E				
U		G	R	A	P	H	I	C		T	A	P		
C		E		L		L		B		T		O		
R	U	L	E		E	Y	E	B	A	L	L	S		
E	L		H		B		R		A					
M	E	A	D	O	W		O	E	D	E	M	A		

FAST FIVE

I	M	A	G	O
N	I	N	E	R
A	C	N	E	D
P	R	O	S	E
T	O	Y	E	R

RIDDLER
1. cease tease &
2. grown crown

MENSA PUZZLE
Here's one way to solve hte puzzle. Your way may be different.
12+3-4+5+67+8+9 = 100

QUOTE UNCODE
Spring is God's way of saying, 'One more time!

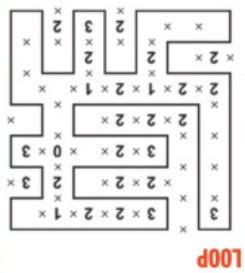
SUDOKU

3	6	8	4	9	7	5	1	2
4	5	7	2	6	1	9	3	8
9	1	2	8	3	5	7	4	6
5	3	6	7	8	2	4	9	1
7	8	9	6	1	4	3	2	5
2	4	1	9	5	3	6	8	7
6	2	3	1	7	9	8	5	4
1	7	5	3	4	8	2	6	9
8	9	4	5	2	6	1	7	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, OD, Nod, Done, Coned, Cloned, Confide.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 9 + 3 + 6 = 27
Medium
6 x 6 / 2 - 8 = 10
Hard
2 + 6 + 1 / 1 = 9

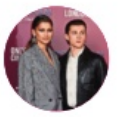
LOOP



KAKURO

Volume No 17, Issue No 220 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

How Tom checks up on Zendaya —
Hollywood star Tom Holland revealed that he often looks up his girlfriend Zendaya on Googleto "check" to make sure she's okay, reports 'People' magazine



SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Music album released

Nillabeda, a music album, was released on Saturday at Hyde Park Hotel. Prominent personalities, including Kannada Film Producers Association president Umesh Banakar and actor Naveen Shankar, graced the function and wished the cast and crew all the best. Well-known rapper, music director and actor, Chandan Shetty, has scored its music and sung it. Sunidhi Neelopant shares the screen with Sandalwood actors Anu Prabhakar, Osgar, Harini Srikanth, Sashi Master, and Abhisekh Matad.

Matad has directed the album apart from working as choreographer. Sunidhi's grandmother Pratibha Neelopant has bankrolled the album. Chandan said that Abhisekh approached him to score music and render the song just a few weeks after his divorce. "It was about four weeks after Niveditha Gowda and I got divorced. I was depressed when Abhisekh approached me. The message of the song is that we have to move on with life irrespective of our problems," Chandan said.

Matad said the music album was appreciated by actor Daali Dhananjaya and choreographer Harsha. The music album is available on Anand Audio YouTube channel.

Innovative marketing

Ganesh Rao Kesarkar, a well-known character actor who has acted in 333 Kannada film, is bullish about the success of his latest movie Tarakasura. Apart from playing the lead in the movie, Kesarkar has bankrolled it. The team of Tarakasura organised a function to release two trailers of the movie at Renukamba Preview Theater. Vedanta Acharya Sri Manjunatha Bharathi Swamiji released the first trailer while Kannada Film Producers Association president Umesh Banakar released the second trailer. Prominent personalities including Kannada Film Directors Association president NRK Vishwanath, Ambedkar Sene president Murthy, and Kannada Sangha president Basavaraj Padukote were present on the occasion. Some invitees have bought the tickets worth Rs 50,000 to watch the movie.

On the occasion, Kesarkar said that he bankrolled the movie with an intention of giving something to society. "I have decided to print the tickets for the movie in advance. Each ticket price is Rs 100. Those who bought the tickets can watch the movie at any theater where it is being screened across the state," said Kesarkar.

He said this is a devotional movie and had got a U certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification. "I thank all those who attended the trailer launch. It is not easy to bankroll historical movies," he said.

Keep it light

Karishma Tanna wants to explore lighter roles

Karishma Tanna, who was last seen in a special role in the web show Call me Bae, shares how she is offered very complex roles after she acted in Scoop. She said, "After Scoop, I've been approached for more intense, dramatic roles that explore complex characters. While I appreciate those, I also want to explore lighter and humorous roles which showcase a different side of my acting range and allow for creative storytelling."

On the personal front, Karishma who married businessman Varun Bangera in February 2022 shares how she is glad she married in her late 30s. In an earlier interview, she said, "I am glad I got married late because as individuals we are now more mature to handle the ups and downs in life. You know about the usual problems that occur in a marriage because you have heard it from your friends, when I was getting married, I knew what not to do. Varun and I have a very mature relationship. Even if we have issues, we know how to manage them. Both of us are independent and passionate about our work."

Karishma is a Gujarati and her husband is a Mangalorean. Talking about it she said, "I love South Indian food. My masi is married to someone from the south and I have learnt south languages and also love the music. And now I am married to one, so there was never anything about adapting to a new culture. I am a vegetarian, so he respects that and also eats vegetarian food with me.

—Tanvi Trivedi, ETimes

RED RED FINE

Actress Nargis Fakhri took to social media to drop her alluring photos in a vibrant red saree.

On Sunday, the 'Rockstar' actor shared a series of her gorgeous photos where she is seen slaying in sparkling red saree that she paired with stylish heels. Alongside the images, Fakhri wrote, "Red hot & Ready to slay. Celebrating Diwali, yay!."

Nargis opted for a natural, dewy makeup and subtle glow. She complimented her look with nude lip colour, mascara and kohl-rimmed eyes. Soon after she posted her photos, fans flooded the comments section with compliments. One wrote, "Hottest celebrity ever." Another user wrote, "prettiest girl on the planet." A third user said, "you look so pretty."

The 'Banjo' actress had earlier shared photos in shimmery off beat white lehenga-choli as she extended her Diwali greeting to fans. She captioned the post, "Happy Diwali May Diwali bring new hope, dreams and a brighter tomorrow for you and your loved ones." On the professional front, Fakhri, who started her career as a model at the age of 16, made her debut in 2011 with Imtiaz Ali's musical drama "Rockstar" alongside Ranbir Kapoor. She rose to prominence with her very first film. —IANS

Samantha's 'blissful days'

Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is gearing up for the release of her next project 'Citadel: Honey Bunny', enjoyed a serene holiday in the picturesque landscapes of Rajasthan.

She shared a collection of photos from her trip, showcasing her stunning looks, pottery sessions, and delightful food experiences. Samantha showcased a range of outfits, including one featuring the Tamil word "Azhagi," which means beautiful woman and is also described as a girl whose smile could outshine the sun.

In the images, the actress is seen radiating joy and tranquility as she fully embraces the peaceful atmosphere of Rajasthan before returning to work. Sharing the photos, the 'Kushi' actress wrote in the caption, "A blissful few days Now ready for a crazy November How gorgeous is sixsensesfortbarwara A beautiful mix of old and new…Thank you for a wonderful experience!." She had previously dropped her stunning photos, exploring the splendour of nature alongside wild animals. The post was captioned, "Witnessed the splendor of nature alongside half a tiger. PS. The last slide is the magnificent picture of the tiger".

Earlier, Samantha was spotted arriving in Jaipur, where paparazzi captured her on a call at the airport. — IANS